

# Visible Smoke Test Procedures

Beginning in March 2008, all vehicles subject to a Smog Check inspection will require a visual test for smoke from the Positive Crankcase Ventilation (PCV) System and tailpipe. The test requirements and procedures are defined in section 3340.42(f) of the California Code of Regulations.

## Identifying Smoke

Types of smoke include:

- Black or gray smoke or soot from an overly rich condition
- Blue or bluish-white smoke from burning oil

Steam from condensation does **not** constitute a failure for smoke.

Smoke from any area other than the vehicle's tailpipe or PCV System, regardless of the cause, does **not** constitute a failure of the Visible Smoke Test.

## Tailpipe Smoke Test

To be performed immediately following the tailpipe emissions test:

- Leave the vehicle's engine at idle
- Remove the Emissions Inspection System (EIS) probe from the tailpipe
- Observe the tailpipe area of the vehicle for at least 10 seconds

## Positive Crankcase Ventilation (PCV) System Smoke Test

To be performed during the underhood portion of the visible fuel leak test:

- Leave the vehicle's engine running at idle
- The PCV System is not to be disconnected
- Observe the PCV System for at least 10 seconds

## Entering Test Results into the Emission Inspection System (EIS)

If **smoke** is observed from the vehicle's tailpipe or PCV System, the vehicle **fails** the Visible Smoke Test. When prompted by the EIS, enter "F" (Defective) in the "Other Emission Related Controls" category of the visual inspection.

If **no smoke** is observed from the vehicle's tailpipe or PCV System, the vehicle **passes** the Visible Smoke Test. Enter "P" (Pass) into the "Other Emission Related Controls Category" of the visual inspection.

Note: The EIS currently allows only one entry for the visual inspection of all components covered under the "Other Emission Related Controls" category. Therefore, if the vehicle passes the Visible Smoke Test but fails a visual inspection of any component covered under the "Other Emission Related Controls" category, enter the appropriate failure code: "D" (Disconnected), "M" (Modified) or "S" (Missing). However, if the vehicle passes the visual inspection for components included in the "Other Emission Related Controls" category but fails the Visible Smoke Test, enter "F" (Defective) into the EIS.

## Documentation Provided to Consumer

If the vehicle **fails** the Visible Smoke Test, in addition to entering the failure into the EIS:

- ✓ Document the failure on the customer's copy of the Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) in the "Other Emission Related Components" section. Make a clear notation on the VIR, such as "Failed For Visible Smoke," or "Failed Visible Smoke Test."
- ✓ Document the failure on the customer's invoice with "Failed For Visible Smoke," or "Failed Visible Smoke Test."
- ✓ Provide to the customer the Bureau's *Visible Smoke Test Failure Consumer Information Sheet*, with the applicable items completed on the checklist.